

COMPLETE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Presently Amended) A method for processing a workpiece,

comprising the steps of:

providing a heated liquid onto a surface of the workpiece that is to be treated, the heated liquid assisting in maintaining the workpiece at an elevated temperature;

introducing ozone into an environment containing the workpiece at a rate of at least 90 grams per hour;

controlling a thickness of the heated liquid on the workpiece so as to form a liquid layer that allows for diffusion of the ozone through the layer ~~for reaction~~; and

reacting the ozone at the surface of the workpiece, to process the workpiece.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning a surface of a workpiece, comprising the steps of:

providing a heated liquid solution of water and at least one of HF and HCl onto the surface of the workpiece, with the heated solution assisting in maintaining the workpiece at an elevated temperature;

introducing ozone into an environment containing the workpiece at a rate of at least 90 grams per hour;

controlling a thickness of the heated liquid solution to form a thin liquid boundary layer on the surface of the workpiece to allow diffusion of the ozone

through the boundary layer for reaction at the surface of the workpiece, to clean the workpiece.

Sub 17
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 where the ozone is introduced at a rate of at least 130 grams per hour.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 where the ozone is introduced at a flow rate of at least 10 lpm and a concentration of at least 10% by weight.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid comprises deionized water.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the deionized water is superheated.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid includes sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, ammonium hydroxide, or deionized water.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of controlling comprises the step of rotating the workpiece.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of controlling comprises the step of rotating the workpiece at a rotation rate equal to or greater than about 300 rpm.

Sub 11
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of controlling comprises adding a surfactant to the liquid.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of controlling comprises the step of spraying the liquid onto the surface of the workpiece at a controlled flow rate.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid includes water and HF at a concentration ratio of between about 50: 1 and 500: 1.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid includes water and HCl at a concentration ratio of between about 50: 1 and 500: 1.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid includes water, HF and HCl at a concentration ratio of between about 50: 1: 1 and 500: 1: 1.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 27 with the ozone supply system comprising a contactor for receiving the ozone and the liquid.

Sub 27
18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 27 further comprising a rotor assembly in the chamber for rotating the workpiece.

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20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 27 where the ozone supply system generates a flow of ozone at a flow rate of at least 10 lpm and a concentration of at least 10% by weight.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 27 where the heater comprises a steam boiler.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 27 further comprising means for controlling a thickness of a liquid layer on the workpiece, including at least one of:

a rotor for rotating the workpiece;

a fluid flow controller or one or more nozzles adapted to generate fine droplets of the liquid.

24-25. (Cancelled)

Sub E 17

26. (Previously Presented) A method for processing a workpiece, comprising the steps of:

providing a thin heated aqueous liquid boundary layer onto a surface of the workpiece that is to be treated, the heated liquid assisting in maintaining the workpiece at an elevated temperature;

introducing ozone into an environment containing the workpiece at a rate of at least 90 grams per hour;

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controlling a thickness of the thin heated aqueous liquid boundary layer to allow for diffusion of the ozone through the boundary layer and a diffusion controlled reaction at the surface of the workpiece, to process the workpiece.

27. (Previously Presented) A system for processing a workpiece, comprising:

a process chamber;

means associated with the process chamber for forming a thin aqueous liquid boundary layer on the workpiece;

an ozone supply system for injecting ozone directly or indirectly into the chamber, and having a capacity of at least 90 grams per hour, whereby the ozone can diffuse through the boundary layer to provide a diffusion controlled reaction between the ozone and the a surface of the workpiece; and

~~DI SUBED~~ a heater for heating the aqueous liquid before the liquid is provided onto the
workpiece.
